Voice of Emmanuel

Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

www.emmanuelypsi.org **facebook.com/emmanuelypsi** **info@emmanuelypsi.org**

APRIL **2025**

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

The Transition Team has been reviewing the congregation's current situation, evaluating where we need to partner with other committees, or delegate tasks. Our first areas of work have included a review of Emmanuel's history and to that end, we have been gathering historical documents to learn and share Emmanuel's history.

The Transition Team is made up of 8 individuals; as the Interim Pastor, I chair the group with Pam Bell, Jerry Cramer, Michael Gelletly, Nancy Jeffries, Mary Beth Maes, Kathy Schaefer, and Jake Zachrich. We have been meeting weekly on Monday evenings.

Michael Gelletly was able to find two documents authored by the Rev. Dr. Leland Elhard, a professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. Elhard spent a year of sabbatical with Emmanuel and King of Kings, Ann Arbor and with "learning communities at the U. of Michigan, and at Richmond, Virginia." He speaks of his work to study "the Christian Congregation, both as an instance of human organization and also as an instrument of God's action in the world" as well as to be a "consultant" to the congregation "in planning and doing your ministry."

These documents provide a rare perspective into the life and history of the congregation from an outside professional intentionally examining its culture and workings. The insights he achieved from life with Emmanuel members in the early 1970's offered an uncommon assessment at that time, and for us, a remarkable benchmark to compare the congregations' present realities.

The Rev. Dr. Elhard concludes his final report to Emmanuel with "15 concise considerations for a faithful future for Emmanuel Lutheran Church:"

1. *Find ways to enjoy and utilize the large building. Don't let its size intimidate you.*
2. *Lift up a variety of people at Emmanuel with their dreams and ideas.*
3. *Keep celebrating the good things of Emmanuel's past. Remember those whose roots are deep in Emmanuel.*
4. *Creatively say hello to the newly born and the newly joined. Without special effort they will keep feeling Emmanuel doesn't notice them nor need their best.*
5. *Combat on the of the bitterest trends of our time by allowing the dignity of the elderly members to shine forth. Minister to them by finding with them their vital ministry to all.*
6. *Reconstruct the whole youth program from rethinking Catechism classes to developing a youth service corps.*
7. *There is an abundance, not a scarcity, in the possibilities of for satisfying the variety of worship needs at Emmanuel. Enjoy discovering them.*

8. *Develop "teams" and small groups to serve and support each other and to reach out together to a hurting world. Don't let anybody feel he is all alone, doing his or her "duty", unrecognized, unsupported by anyone else.*
9. *Learn the art of "participatory" management by everybody in every level of the congregation's life.*
10. *Don't be afraid to try for a bit more money from everyone especially as all dream together of more satisfying and imaginative ways of being Emmanuel.*
11. *Don't avoid the issue of providing adequate staff to train for and to facilitate the ministry of all, not to do it for them.*
12. *Provide a pastor's support committee which will meet regularly to help him when he's down, tell him when he's good, and help him dream. Don't let such a committee slip to the side.*
13. *Keep looking for ways to keep in touch personally with the members. Don't let the recommitment process once a year be the only direct challenge or touch of warmth.*
14. *Develop a Christian Education program according to the modern family's needs and agenda. Find some way of overcoming the loneliness and desolation of tiny, scattered Sunday School classes struggling in the vast reaches of the basement.*
15. *Find many, many more ways of having fun at Emmanuel. Joy, rejoicing is at the center of Christian life together. See St. Paul's letter to the congregation at Phillipi.*

Peace!
Leland Elhard

Our team has found dynamics highlighted here synonymous with those at Emmanuel today. Do you see any of these admonitions from 50+ years ago still relevant for us? To what ought we attend to deepen our faithfulness for the future?

As part of our study and sharing, the Transition Team is developing a timeline for Emmanuel we'd like your input on. This month, it will be going up on the wall in the gathering area with historical markers across our past 166 years. We would like you to add to this timeline—marriages, baptisms, special events, etc.

The Transition Team has also been reviewing Emmanuel's mission and vision statements. We have been considering their effectiveness and compatibility for the congregation in this time. We will draw the Council into this conversation and then the congregation. In short, the objective is for the mission statement to help guide or steer our ministry into the future. Simultaneously, the vision statement should give us an image of the future we are working toward.

The task list before the Team is a long one. And the work will hopefully have far-reaching implications, setting up Emmanuel for a long and abundant future. Our proposed contract has me with you as Interim Pastor at least through the end of June 2026.

I am excited by this work and stimulated by the possibilities we are carving. In remembering our history, understanding our present, and boldly preparing for life in abundant grace, we dutifully grasp our faithfulness for tomorrow.

Rejoicing in our life together,
Pastor Joshua Rinas

Happy Birthday to all who were born in April!
Peter Walline, Alexis Droste, Jamie Gallupe, Irmgard Gelletly, Nora Berry, Karen Facer, Jessica Miller, Kathy Chardenet, Kimberly Boyce, Charles Boyce, Dee Fleszar, Lewis Shock, Adam Walters, Christine Gelletly

---

April 2nd – ***Lenten Supper & Service***

Lenten Suppers will be served at 6:00pm

Holden Evening Prayer Service will begin at 7:00pm

April 6th – ***Fifth Sunday in Lent***

Birthday Sunday
Join us for a birthday coffee hour from 11:00am – 12:00pm.

Ypsilanti Youth Choir
The Ypsilanti Youth Choir will perform at First United Methodist Church at 3:00pm.

April 9th – ***Lenten Supper & Service***

Lenten Suppers will be served at 6:00pm
Fish Dinner hosted by the Scouts

Holden Evening Prayer Service will begin at 7:00pm

April 13th – ***Palm Sunday 10am Service***

April 15th

Let's Go Out to Eat!
The Membership Committee would like to invite to a meal and conversation on Tuesday, April 15th at 5pm at Aubree's in Depot Town – located at 39 E. Cross St. Ypsilanti, MI. This is simply a social event meant for people to get to know each other better. If you have a friend who you'd like to bring who isn't a member at Emmanuel, they're more than welcome!

April 17th – ***Maundy Thursday***

Maundy Thursday Combined Service
This combined service with St. Luke's Episcopal, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, and Emmanuel Lutheran, **held at St. Luke's Episcopal**, will begin with an Agape Meal at 6:00pm followed by a service at 7:00pm.

April 18th – ***Good Friday 7pm Service***

April 19th – ***Easter Vigil 7pm Service***

Landscaping work day 9am – Noon (Rain date will be the following Saturday)

April 20th – ***Easter Sunday 10am Service***

April 27th – ***Second Sunday of Easter***

"Mulch" Help Needed
Saturday April 19th (day before Easter) from 9am to noon (if needed). Rain Date will be the following Saturday. We need some help with yard cleanup and spreading mulch. The Scouts will be there to help us. We also have some other yard cleanup needed. Bring your rakes, wheel barrels, and garden tools.
Question: ask Della Diehr dmdiehr@gmail.com 734-740-6029.

Ways to Give
Giving can be done online by clicking here. You can also give via text at 734-548-9438. Simply text the amount you would like to give and follow the prompts. You can mail checks to: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 201 N. River St., Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

PayPal
Select payment type as "Friends and Family" using emmanuelypsi@gmail.com. Please indicate if it is for a special account (food pantry, memorials, etc.) where it says add message.

New Giving Mobile App
Download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

To My Dear Emmanuel Family,

This is my huge THANK YOU to you all - For the visits, phone calls, emails, texts, cards, food drop-offs, and help with laundry, for your thoughts and especially for your prayers. I am well on the way to recovery and please know how much all of your love and support has added to the success of my recovery.

I sincerely look forward to being back to church with my dear Emmanuel Family.

God's Blessings to you all,
Linda

Thank you all!

Thank you to all who brought in items to be sent to the Dominican Republic with Paul!

Over 700 toothbrushes, over 400 tubes of toothpaste and a huge bag of floss, and picks were donated!

A Thrivent Action Grant helped support this project!

Thank you very much!

SOCIAL CONCERNS – FEBRUARY NUMBERS

Clothes Closet

85 families representing 311 people were served in February. Donations are accepted on Wednesday mornings from 9a-10:30a or can be left in the donation bin in the gathering area (behind the green curtain)

Please do not leave donations in the basement or anywhere else in the church. Donations left elsewhere are subject to being thrown out. There are too many other groups that meet at the church and donations left in other areas could be in the way of those groups.

Food Pantry

227 families representing 599 individuals visited 398 times for servicing a total of 1035 people. The Food Pantry received 9,529 pounds of food valued at $17,331.67, from Food Gatherers grant funding and USDA free food. February average attendance was 100 families per week, a 20% increase over January.

There has been a decrease in the amount of food available from Food Gatherers.
If you are interested in helping Food Gatherers support the 140 county agencies (including Emmanuel's Food Pantry) that depend on Food Gatherers, go to http://www.foodgatherers.org and click on "Donate Now".

Quilting

Happens 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 11am in the Gathering area. No experience necessary, come and join the small team!

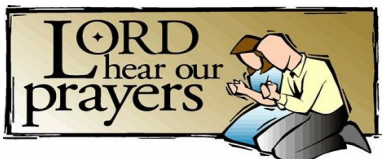
Don't forget:

*If you need medical equipment, there is a medical loan closet at the Ypsilanti Township Community Center, 2025 E. Clark Rd., 734-544-8300. Information on other local medical loan closets can be found at http://www.loanclosets.org

*Specifically looking for volunteers to help with Clothes Closet! Please consider helping restock and assist clients or sort donations. If you are interested, please leave your name and contact information at the church office! Thank you!

Prayers requested for:

John, Mary, Corky, Lynn, Vicki, Ruth, Judy, Steve, Marilynn, Barb, and Linda.



From Membership Committee

We would like to do an updated directory for our Emmanuel Families. There will be papers in the Narthex for you to fill out with any changes to your family information for the directory. Just fill out the paper and put it in the mailbox on the Church office door. Thank you!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 1pm Food Gatherers Delivery Peter Walline	**2** 9am—10:30am Clothes Closet 11am—1pm Quilting 12:30-2:00pm Bible Study Class 3pm-5pm Food Pantry 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Holden Eve Prayer 8pm-9pm AA Meeting Alexis Droste	**3** 9:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 7pm—9pm YCC Jamie Gallupe	**4** 6pm –8pm NA Meeting	**5** Irmgard Gelletly
6 LENT 5 8:45am Handbell Choir 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Worship 11am Birthday Coffee Hr 6pm Scouts Nora Berry Karen Facer	**7** Jessica Miller	**8** 10:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 1pm Food Gatherers Delivery	**9** 9am—10:30am Clothes Closet 12:30-2:00pm Bible Study Class 3pm-5pm Food Pantry 6pm Lenten Supper 7pm Holden Eve Prayer 8pm-9pm AA Meeting Kathy Chardenet	**10** 9am Class of '53 9:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 7pm—9pm YCC Kim Boyce	**11** 6pm –8pm NA Meeting Charles Boyce	**12** 10am-12pm Washtenaw Refugee

13 PALM SUNDAY 8:45am Handbell Choir 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	**14** Dee Fleszar	**15** 10:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 1pm Food Gatherers Delivery Let's Go Out to Eat! 5pm @Aubree's	**16** 9am—10:30am Clothes Closet 12:30-2:00pm Bible Study Class 3pm-5pm Food Pantry 8pm—9pm AA Mtg.	**17** MAUNDY THURSDAY 9:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 6pm Agape Meal @ St. Luke's Episcopal 7pm Combined Service @ St. Luke's Episcopal	**18** GOOD FRIDAY 6pm –8pm NA Meeting 7pm Service Lew Shock	**19** EASTER VIGIL 7pm Service
20 EASTER 8:45am Handbell Choir 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	**21** 	**22** 10:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 1pm Food Gatherers Delivery	**23** 9am—10:30am Clothes Closet 11am—1pm Quilting 12:30-2:00pm Bible Study Class 3pm-5pm Food Pantry 8pm—9pm AA Mtg.	**24** 9:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 7pm—9pm YCC	**25** 6pm –8pm NA Meeting	**26** Adam Walters
27 EASTER 2 8:45am Handbell Choir 10:00am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 6pm Scouts Christine Gelletly	**28**	**29** 10:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 1pm Food Gatherers Delivery	**30** 9am—10:30am Clothes Closet 12:30-2:00pm Bible Study Class 3pm-5pm Food Pantry 8pm—9pm AA Mtg.			

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10AM IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM

BETHEL WORSHIP @ 12PM

** Birthdays listed at the bottom of each day*